

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 5-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to further distinguish from the Tokushima reference. Claim 8 has been amended to address informalities. Claims 2-4 are canceled. Support for the amendments to claim 1 can be found in the original specification at, for example, original claims 2-4. Support for the amendments to claim 8 can be found in the original specification at, for example, page 12, lines 1-14. No new matter is added.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiners Cheung and Yu in the February 26, 2009 interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 5-12 is respectfully requested.

Objection To The Specification

The specification was objected to for informalities.

The specification has been amended in accordance with the Patent Office suggestion to recite "the substrate 7" rather than "the substrate 1."

Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 8 has been amended to recite "...the outer faces of each of the four corners in each of the bottom lid and the top lid being thinner than a rest of the bottom lid and the top lid," and is thus definite, as agreed to in the interview.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejection

Claims 1-5 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Tokushima (JP 10-010705). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Amended claim 1 requires lower support parts that are disposed in four corners of the bottom lid, upper support parts that are disposed in four corners of the top lid, each of the lower support parts and each of the upper support parts including a pair of support portions having an L-shape, and each of the pair of the support portions in each of the lower support parts and in each of the upper support parts including an oblique face being in contact with a corner edge of the substrate.

These features of claim 1 provide the benefits that when the top lid is closed, the edges in the four corners of each of the top and bottom faces of the substrate are positioned at both the oblique faces in the support portions of the upper support parts and the oblique faces in the support portions of the lower support parts in the four corners. Thus, the substrate is securely clamped between the bottom lid and the top lid, and is prevented from moving in both the vertical and longitudinal directions at the same time. Accordingly, the substrate is protected during shipping from dust generation and vibration. See page 10, lines 9-19 of the specification.

For at least the following reasons, Tokushima does not describe all of the features of claim 1.

Tokushima describes a reticle case 50 provided with reticle 1 holding members 60 installed on a base plate 52 and an upper cover 58. Tokushima describes that the holding member 60 has a tapered surface 62 that supports the end face of the reticle 1. See the Solution section of Tokushima.

However, as illustrated in Drawing 1 of Tokushima, the holding members 60 are not provided in each of the four corners of a bottom lid and a top lid, as required by claim 1.

Instead, the holding members 60 of Tokushima are disposed in an area that is inset from the corners. See Fig. 1 of Tokushima. Thus, for at least the above reasons, Tokushima does not describe, in any way, lower support parts that are disposed in four corners of the bottom lid and upper support parts are disposed in four corners of the top lid, as required by claim 1.

As agreed during the interview, the holding members 60 of Tokushima do not have an L-shape. Instead, the holding members 60 of Tokushima have a linear shape, and thus can not be in contact with a pair of edges of a substrate. Thus, Tokushima can only prevent the movement of the reticle 1 in one direction. In this regard, when the hold down member 70 is opened, the reticle can be slid out of the case 50 by opening the front gate 56, even if the reticle 1 is being held by the holding members 60. See paragraph [0019] of Tokushima.

Thus, Tokushima does not describe the feature of claim 1 that requires each of the lower support parts and each of the upper support parts having a pair of support portions having an L-shape in contact with the pair of edges of the substrate. For this additional reason, Tokushima does not describe all of the features of claim 1.

Further, the holding members 60 of Tokushima do not have an oblique face in contact with a corner edge of the substrate. Thus, Tokushima does not describe each of the pair of the support portions in each of the lower support parts and in each of the upper support parts including an oblique face being in contact with a corner edge of the substrate, as required by claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, Tokushima does not describe all of the features of claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejections

The following claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious: (1) claims 6-7 over Tokushima in view of Saito (JP 2003-222992) and Kosugi (U.S. Patent No. 4,776,462); (2) claim 8 over Tokushima in view of Scherb (U.S. Patent No.

5,259,523); (3) claim 9 over Tokushima in view of Scherb and in further view of Yamauchi (U.S. Patent No. 5,353,934); (4) claim 10 over Tokushima in view of Freed (U.S. Patent No. 3,615,006); and (5) claim 11 over Tokushima in view of Freed and in further view of Yamauchi.

For at least the following reasons, no combination of the cited references describes, or provides any reason or rationale for one of ordinary skill in the art to have come to, all of the features of claims 6-11.

Claims 6-11 depend from amended claim 1. Amended claim 1 requires lower support parts that are disposed in four corners of the bottom lid, upper support parts that are disposed in four corners of the top lid, each of the lower support parts and each of the upper support parts including a pair of support portions having an L-shape, and each of the pair of the support portions in each of the lower support parts and in each of the upper support parts including an oblique face being in contact with a corner edge of the substrate.

As agreed during the interview, and thoroughly described above, the primary Tokushima reference does not describe at least these features of amended claim 1. Additionally, as agreed to during the interview, none of the cited secondary references describe, or provide any reason or rationale for one of ordinary skill in the art to have come to, each of the lower support parts and each of the upper support parts including a pair of support portions having an L-shape, and each of the pair of the support portions in each of the lower support parts and in each of the upper support parts including an oblique face being in contact with a corner edge of the substrate, as required by amended claim 1. Thus, none of the secondary references remedy the deficiencies of Tokushima.

Further, Tokushima describes that when the hold down member 70 is opened, the reticle can be slid out of the case 50 by opening the front gate 56, even if the reticle 1 is being held by the holding members 60. See paragraph [0019] of Tokushima. Thus, as agreed during

the interview, if one were to have attempted to incorporate L-shaped holding members in the Tokushima device, the device would not have operated as intended, and would have defeated the purposes of Tokushima because one would not be able to slide the reticle 1 out of the case 50.

For at least the above reasons, no combination of Tokushima, Saito, Kosugi, Scherb, Freed and Yamauchi render claims 6-11 obvious. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 and 5-12 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Andrew B. Whitehead
Registration No. 61,989

JAO:ABW/tca

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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